


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A record/playback apparatus comprising:

a record/playback unit ~~for reading~~ configured to read out data from a first recording medium and recording the data onto a second recording medium;

 a control unit ~~for generating~~ configured to generate basic data for imposing payment based on data indicative of a user identification and data indicative of a dubbing speed selected by the user for recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium and ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit the basic data for imposing payment, and when receiving data indicative of proper completion of imposing payment, ~~directing~~ configured to cause the record/playback unit to start the recording of the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at the dubbing speed selected by the user; and


a payment imposing unit ~~for determining~~ configured to

determine, when receiving the basic data for imposing payment transmitted by the control unit, an amount of payment based on the dubbing speed selected by the user ~~and the user identification data and for transmitting~~ configured to transmit to the control unit the data indicative of proper completion of imposing payment when an electronic transfer of funds equal to the determined amount of payment is withdrawn from an account of the specific user,

wherein the control unit causes, when the dubbing speed is a standard dubbing speed, the record/playback unit to start the recording of the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at the standard dubbing speed without transmitting the basic data to said payment imposing unit.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). The record/playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the payment imposing unit includes a key data generator for generating key data as the data indicative of the completion of imposing payment from the received basic data.


Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The record/playback apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control unit judges whether the key data received from the payment imposing unit as the data indicative of completion of imposing payment is authentic and controls operation of the record/playback unit with a result of the judgment.

 Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The record/playback apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the control unit collates the key data received from the payment imposing unit as the data indicative of completion of imposing payment with key lock data stored therein and, when it is found from the collation that the key data is authentic, directs the record/playback unit to start the recording of the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The record/playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the control unit, when the key data is judged authentic, directs the record/playback unit in response to the data indicative of a speed to record the data read out from the first recording

medium onto the second recording medium.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). The record/playback apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the payment imposing unit, when the data indicative of a speed in the basic data received from the control unit is indicative of reading out data from the first recording medium and recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at a predetermined speed, cancels imposing payment and generates the key data.

 Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The record/playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the payment imposing unit, when the data indicative of a speed in the basic data received from the control unit is indicative of reading out data from the first recording medium and recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at a speed faster than the standard speed, imposes payment and generates the key data.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). The record/playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the payment imposing unit is connected via a communications line to the control

unit.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A record/playback method of reading out data from a first recording medium and recording the data onto a second recording medium with the use of an apparatus capable of reading out the data from the first recording medium and recording the data onto the second recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

generating basic data for imposing payment based on data indicative of a user identification and data indicative of a dubbing speed selected by the user for recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium;

transmitting the basic data for imposing payment from the apparatus to a payment imposing unit;

imposing payment according to the basic data for imposing payment received, with an amount of payment determined based on the dubbing speed selected by the user and the user identification and for generating data indicative of proper completion of imposing payment when an electronic transfer of funds equal to the determined amount of payment is withdrawn from an account of the user in the

payment imposing unit;

transmitting the data indicative of the proper completion of imposing payment from the payment imposing unit to the apparatus; and

~~directing~~ controlling the apparatus to start recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at the dubbing speed selected by the user in response to the data indicative of the proper completion of imposing payment,

wherein the controlling step includes controlling the apparatus to start the recording of the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at a standard dubbing speed without transmitting the basic data to the payment imposing unit when the dubbing speed is the standard dubbing speed.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented). The record/playback method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of:

generating key data using the payment imposing unit as the data indicative of the completion of imposing payment from the basic data received.

Claim 13 (Amended). The record/playback method according to claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

judging whether the key data received as the data indicative of the completion of imposing payment is authentic; and

recording the data onto the second recording medium based on the judging.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The record/playback method according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

collating the key data received as the data indicative of the completion of imposing payment with key lock data held within the apparatus to judge the authenticity of the key data; and

recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium when the key data is judged authentic.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The record/playback method according to claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

recording the data onto the second recording medium

according to the data indicative of a speed when the key data is judged authentic.


Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The record/playback method according to claim 12 further comprising the steps of canceling imposing payment and generating the key data when the data indicative of a speed in the basic data received is indicative of reading out the data from the first recording medium and recording it onto the second recording medium at a predetermined speed.

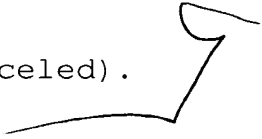
Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The record/playback method according to claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

imposing payment and generating the key data when the data indicative of a speed in the basic data received from the control unit is indicative of reading out data from the first recording medium and recording the read-out data onto the second recording medium at a speed faster than the predetermined speed.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The record/playback method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of:



 reading out corresponding data from a data storage unit in response to indicator data supplied from an operating unit and recorded onto the first recording medium.

(Claims 19-45 (Canceled)). 

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